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The Voice of the University of Toronto at Mississauga

THE MEDIUM

VOLUME 30 ISSUE 17 JANUARY 26, 2004

Goalie on Fire

The modified butterfly? Whatever this goalie's stance, he managed to keep the ball out of the net, though the player in black was treated to a juicy rebound. Read more about ball hockey on page 11.

South Building on Fire

photos/Mehraan Pavri

Is it an innie or an outie? Members of the Mississauga Fire Deparment link hoses to trucks and fire hydrants in response to a fire alarm in the South Building last Saturday. Read more on page 2.

Aramark employees at UTM criticize management practices of company

Management refuses to comment on accusations of improper treatment

BY ADRIAN BAREK

Employees of UTM's primary food service provider, Aramark, have lashed out at the company's management on campus.

Numerous Aramark employees across campus have accused management of treating them in a hostile and unfriendly manner. Additional complaints include not being granted time off for doctor's appointments, being forced to work during scheduled breaks, and senior staff not receiving priority hours. Several employees contacted *The Medium* and requested that an article be written on the tense situation between employees and management of Aramark on campus.

There are five Aramark managers on campus who oversee various aspects of the company's operations. While employees stated that they are unhappy with the management as a whole, the majority of complaints were directly aimed at Betsy Gutnik, the food services coordinator on campus who oversees all Aramark operations at UTM.

The statements made by UTM Aramark employees about the management on campus were potent and diverse.

"The problem I have with her (Gutnik) is she treats people like they are animals," Josephine McDowell*, an Aramark employee said. "If we ask for some time off, like to take my daughter to the doctor, she doesn't want to give it to us." Stephen Crawott*, another Aramark employee echoed McDowell's statements.

"I give proper notice nearly a week ahead for my appointment and she refuses," he said. "She is not reasonable and she is violating the law. The way she talks is always rude. The majority of Aramark employees are upset with the management."

"I feel discriminated against," said Darryl Mohammed*, a long-time Aramark staff member said. "She (Gutnik) doesn't allow me to take a break in the back of Tim Horton's where all the other employees, management, and even Betsy herself takes their breaks."

One of the most shocking allegations made by Aramark employees is that Gutnik prohibits the Spigel Hall kitchen staff from speaking to one another.

"That is very true, in the kitchen employees cannot speak to each other when they are working," Sarah Gondelphos,* an Aramark employee said. "Even if you say good morning to everyone, she (Gutnik) takes that as talking to each other, and the employees at Spigel aren't supposed to do that."

When contacted by *The Medium* about the allegations by her employees, Gutnik declined to comment. Michael Tafeit, the Aramark regional manager who oversees the UTM campus stated that the employees have other avenues with which to file grievances with the company, and that choosing to speak to *The Medium* was "their prerogative." Tafeit declined to comment any further.

Students at Erindale are in the dark as to the problems plaguing Aramark. When told of the complaints being voiced by Aramark employees and the management's refusal to comment, students were not impressed.

"It is unacceptable the way the

Employee continued on page 4

What's Inside

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"If everyone else is in line...then it must be better." - Two UTM girls would jump off a bridge if everyone else was doing it...page 4

Former *Medium* staff informs students on careers in writing

BY JASON MARSH LAROUCHE

On a cold, flurry-filled Wednesday, UTM's alumni in the Professional Writing and Communications program were treated by the Career Center to a discussion panel in the Student Center Boardroom. Three of the four guest speakers were former UTM students, which made it seem very easy for them to relate to those in attendance. Present also was the head of the Professional Writing and Communications program, Professor Guy Allen, in the front row.

From left to right, the panelists introduced themselves and gave a brief explanation of what they have accomplished in their chosen field.

Astrid Poci, a freelance writer for the *Mississauga News* and *Hamilton Spectator*, as well as a past writer for *the Varsity* and editor for *The Medium*, describes the art of selling one's talent to deserving newspapers as "moxie." Through freelancing for the *Mississauga News*, she discovered that, "what people want to read about is people."

Paul Ferriss, news editor for Marketing magazine, is a graduate with an English degree from York University, as well as a freelance writer for *Motion Magazine* and *The National Post* newspaper. As for working on community newspapers, which he had to do at one point in his life, Ferriss identified the pros and cons in making the decision to do so. "You meet all kinds of people... The downside is the pay is terrible."

Tracy Moniz, a member of the Public Affairs Department at the U of T's Division of University Advancement, credits her success on her love of writing. The 25-year-old freely admitted that she found a passion for writing ever since she first picked up a pencil.

"In high school, " she says, "I loved English because it gave me an opportunity to write." She also credits her time spent as a volunteer writer and then Assistant News Editor for *The Medium* for helping her "develop as a writer, as an editor, and as a person." To first year students who are thinking of taking up a writing career, she says, "Start off by taking a couple of writing courses...and see if you enjoy it." Furthermore, on the subject of keeping clippings in a portfolio and volunteer reporting, "even if you don't intend on a career for a journalist...you'll need something that shows your skills in writing."

The final guest panelist was David Hunter, who was a student at UTM when it was still Erindale College, with just the North building and a lot of field. "It was the hippie era," he joked.

Careers continued on page 4

MONDAY MOVIES
Jan. 26 - Finding Nemo: - Monsters Inc: Feb. 2 - American Wedding: 12p.m. & 5 p.m.
Toy Story: - Underworld: 2p.m. & 7p.m.
Where? Student Centre Presentation Room
monday_movies@hotmail.com
www.utm.utoronto.ca/scevents

Kung Hei Fat Choi

photo/Adrian Barek

These are dragons, but 2004 is the year of the monkey! The Erindale Chinese Students' Association (ECSA) staged a demonstration of music and dance in celebration of the Chinese Lunar New Year in the Student Centre last Thursday.

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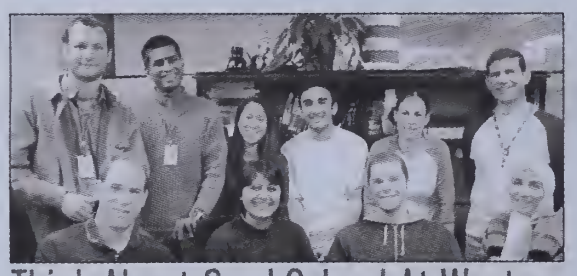

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- Poster and audio / visual displays of current graduate projects
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UTM hires new administrator to oversee food service on campus

By Jessica Di Leo

UTM has welcomed a new member to the university's administration. Teresa Carlisl is the new Food Services Coordinator, a position created to provide a direct line of communication between the faculty and students of UTM, and the food service providers.

Carlisl was hired in December 2003 for the newly created position and is a veteran in the food services industry. She ran her own catering business for seven years and handled the food services at Massey College for a year. For the last seven months, Carlisl operated the faculty club at McMaster University.

"If students, faculty and staff have any concerns regarding service issues, they can bring them to me and I can address them," Carlisl said. Carlisl's past experience makes her well-suited to deal with some of the main problems with food services at UTM. "I'm in a great position now, prior to the growth, because it gives me the opportunity to determine and settle the problems that need to be settled" she said. "We are working with the existing franchises at the university in an attempt to get the best possible situations for the UTM community."

She is currently devoting her attention to some of the most prominent issues with the UTM food services. She said some of the major concerns that need to be addressed are long line-ups, lack of variety, problems with signage and the hours of operation."

In a survey conducted by the UTM Food Committee students had the opportunity to express similar concerns. The survey, distributed by Aubrey Iwaniw, vice president of the Students' Administrative Council (SAC), offers questions about the value, health, and variety of the food at UTM. Out of 101 participants, only four per cent voted in agreement that UTM's food services offered "lots" of variety, while 37 per cent voted that there is "hardly" any choice. Among the concerns cited in the survey were lack of vegetarian options and Halal meat choices.

"I know that the contractors are addressing the Halal meat problem at the moment," Carlisl said.

Some of the problems with meal variety stem from the lack of advertisements to inform students of their options. For instance, survey participants complained about the lack of hot breakfast options on campus.

"We found out that William's Coffee Pub has hot breakfast, which a lot of people don't know about because there is no signage to tell you," Carlisl explained.

Another major issue with food service is hours of operation. Survey results indicated a desire for longer hours of operation. 38 per cent agreed that food services should remain open until 11:00 p.m. Currently, the food services in the South Building are closed by 7:00 p.m. during the week (excluding Tim Horton's and Pizza Pizza in The Greenery which close at 9:00 p.m.) and all of the franchises in the South Building close at 3:00 p.m. on Fridays. Panzarotto Pizza in the North Building is open until 9:00 p.m.

"We are working to find a solution for those people, who don't feel they are getting adequate food service in the evening," Carlisl said.

Another concern on her agenda is the issue of long line-ups. "We are working with existing franchises, trying to solve the long line-ups at Spigel . . . seeing how long it is taking for people to get through the lines and what we an do to alleviate that," Carlisl explained.

In order to deal with any specific complaints, concerns or suggestions, Carlisl has created an e-mail address for the UTM community, "so that I can get a good idea of what people are most concerned about and I can prioritize the issues and try to deal with them." Furthermore, Carlisl said she "won't be able to see every thing that is going on, in every area, at every time, so this feedback will be helpful in letting me really get a handle on the problems quickly."

Carlisl has implemented the e-mail address, which will soon be advertised around the campus, because she believes, "it is important for people to feel that their concerns are being looked at and considered." Carlisl encourages students, faculty and staff to reach her at food@utm.utoronto.ca.

photo/Mehraan Pavri

Teresa Carlisl hard at work in her North Building office.

Tid bits o' News

Fire and smoke in South Building

What few people were ambling around South Building last Saturday were forced out in the cold when a fire alarm was set off at 2:07 p.m. About 100 people were evacuated from the building and the Mississauga Fire Department responded several minutes later. According to campus Police Constable Mike Bell, the alarm was triggered by smoke from a fifth floor mechanical room. The room contained an air handling unit that supplies air to the South Building. Several reports to Campus Police about the smell of smoke had been made prior to the alarm. The source of the smoke was a belt that either burnt up or seized, and the resulting friction created an abundance of acrid smoke. Bell couldn't say whether any fire was actually present in the room, but he speculated that if there was any flames, "they went out as quickly as they started." Despite any actual fire, the Mississauga Fire Department connected hoses from their trucks to fire hydrants to be ready for any situation. No damage to the South Building occurred save the seized belt.

Movie Night Fundraiser

In an effort to aid victims of the Bam, Iran earthquake, the Erindale Iranian Student Association (EISA) staged a movie night fundraiser last week. Another is planned for Jan. 29 in the Student Centre. A number of student groups have come together to help with the cause including the Erindale Part-time Undergraduate Students, Fulfilling Dreams, the Students' Administrative Council, the university Womens' Centre, the Muslim Students' Association, and Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights.

As well, donation boxes for the charity are located around campus. Saba Afraz, one of the organizers stated that at the time of speaking to *The Medium*, several hundred dollars had been raised.

Responsible Gambling

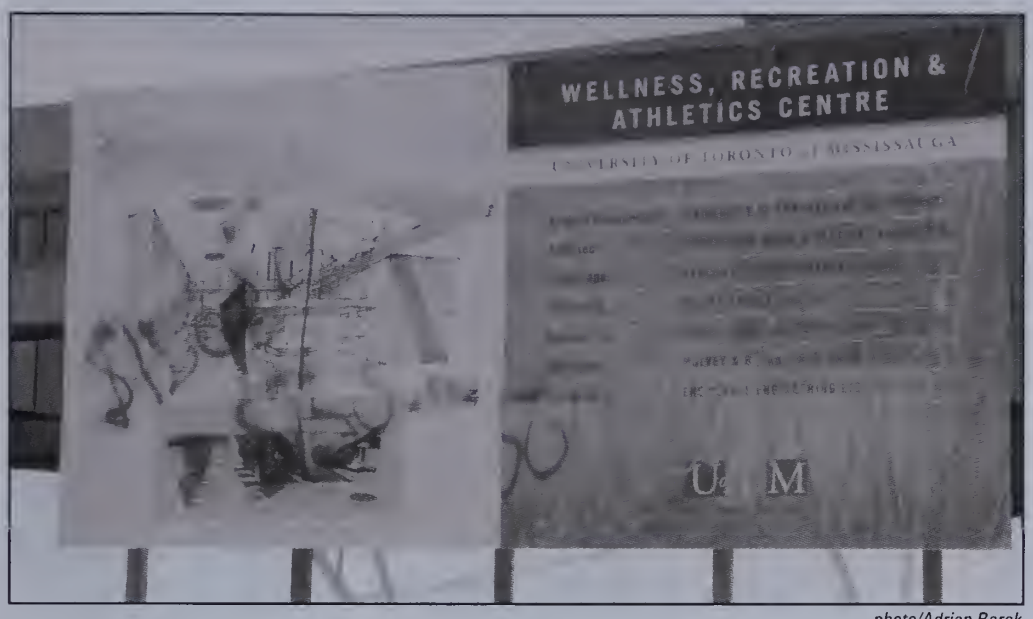
Purple shirts were out in full force in the student centre last week. The shirts were worn by student volunteers of the Responsible Gambling Council, a non-profit group that spreads awareness about the addictive properties of gambling. The group had a booth and several volunteers milling around the Student Centre from the hours of 1 - 3 p.m. on Monday to Thursday of last week. According to Tammy Faulds, project coordinator of the 'interactive awareness booth,' people between the ages of 18 and 24 carry two to three times the risk of becoming addicted to gambling then the rest of the population. The purpose of the booth is also to dispel the myths of the probability at winning money from the lottery, slot machines and other popular gambling methods. As well, the booth provided resources on how to get help if you have a gambling problem.

CAREER CENTRE @ UTM

Getting an Edge in the Job Search: Mon Jan. 26, 1:00-3:00, Student Centre Boardroom.
What Can I Do With A Degree in Psychology? Tuesday, Jan. 27, 12:00-1:00, SE3130.
Careers in Biology: Tuesday, Jan. 27, 12:00-1:00, Career Centre.
Careers in Law: Tuesday, Jan. 27, 5:00-7:00 pm, Student Centre Boardroom.
Toronto School of Traditional Chinese Medicine Info Session: Jan. 28, 11-12 & 1-2, Student Ctr.
Discover Careers in Marketing: Wed Jan. 28, 3:00-5:00, Student Centre Boardroom.
Medical School Info Session: Thursday, Jan. 29, 10:00-11:00, Career Centre.

CAREER CENTRE @ UTM More info @ www.utm.utoronto.ca/careers

Political Vandalism



photo/Adrian Barek

A picture is worth....150 bucks!?! A newly erected sign advertising the future site of UTM's Athletic, Health, and Wellness Centre fell victim to vandalism last week. Red and silver spray paint was used to write '$150' in multiple spots on the sign. The spray paint is in reference to the $150 annual levy that will be paid by all full-time UTM students to fund the centre upon its opening, scheduled for summer 2006. With students contributing $16 million to the facility and U of T only putting forth $8 million, the $150 levy has been the source of a great deal of controversy on campus. The sign was covered by a tarp for part of the week, but by Sunday it had been removed.

UTM students join in protest of French ban on religious sings

By Faaizah Salahuddin

UTM students recently joined hundreds of other demonstrators at a peaceful rally in front of the French Consulate in downtown Toronto to show opposition to proposed French legislation that would see all 'conspicuous' religious signs banned in France's public schools and state institutions. These students were part of a global chain of protests and demonstrations centred in Paris: cities all over the world joined in - from Washington DC to Baghdad, Beirut, and Nablus; from London, Brussels, and Stockholm to the Kashmiri city of Srinagar and Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur.

The rally, held on January 17, came a full month after French President Jacques Chirac looked into the results of an official report on state secularism and announced the proposed legislation, which may take effect as soon as September 2004. While critics differ on the 'real' motivation behind the ban on religious insignia, Chirac says the aim is to protect the principle of secularism that anchors life in France. However, it is also seen as a way to hold back the perceived swell of Islamic fundamentalism in France's Muslim community - the largest in Western Europe at an estimated 5 million. Opponents of the ban dismiss this as mere rhetoric. Instead, they point out that when it was first debated in the early '90s, the proposed legislation was specifically targeted towards the headscarf, or hijab, of Muslim women in an attempt to control what some French politicians saw as a political statement.

UTM students who attended the rally were did so to send a message.

"I wanted to go and show support to everyone in France who had their religious freedoms stripped from them," Roohi Jawad, a second year English major said. Even though most people thought it was a rally against the "hijab ban", it's not just the hijab that may be banned; it's all external religious symbols like the Jewish skullcap and large Christian crosses.

Naila Kibria, president of UTM's Muslim Students Association, added that she attended the rally "more than anything else, for unity and to show support - to show that we are individuals and we are affected by this issue. I handed out flyers informing what the rally was about; a lot of people had questions."

The Toronto rally drew close to four hundred demonstrators.

On first hearing about this issue in France - which has now spread to other European countries such as Germany and Belgium - a range of emotions could be found amongst UTM students.

"I was shocked!" exclaimed Jawad. "Why would anyone take away freedom of religion from their citizens, especially when they weren't going around preaching it to other people? These people are just quietly practising their religion."

In contrast, third year student Sirad Shirdon responded that "my first reaction was not necessarily one of shock and dismay. The French government has been debating this idea over the last fifteen years, and I guess they were just waiting for the right context in which to apply it," Shirdon said. "The so-called war on terrorism provides the Chirac government with such a context."

First year professional writing and philosophy student Natasha [last name withheld] expressed yet another viewpoint: "I may not agree with the legislation, but I can see why it may be considered - because the French were a homogenic society, and now there's another society that's growing so large inside of theirs. They're afraid it will take over their society and change the way they've always lived."

With demographic change affecting the cultural dynamic of not only France but of many other countries as well, many students ask at what point ideas of cultural preservation turn into essentially intolerant policies. The French government has long espoused a policy of integration - or assimilation - for all groups within French society. This policy holds allegiance to the state over any distinction based on ethnicity, religion, etc.; preferring individual integration into the culture of the state, particular strategies are often needed to prevent the formation of smaller communities. This contrasts to policies in the UK and a number of European countries that allow room for preservation of cultural identity, where some degree of pluralism is institutionalised.

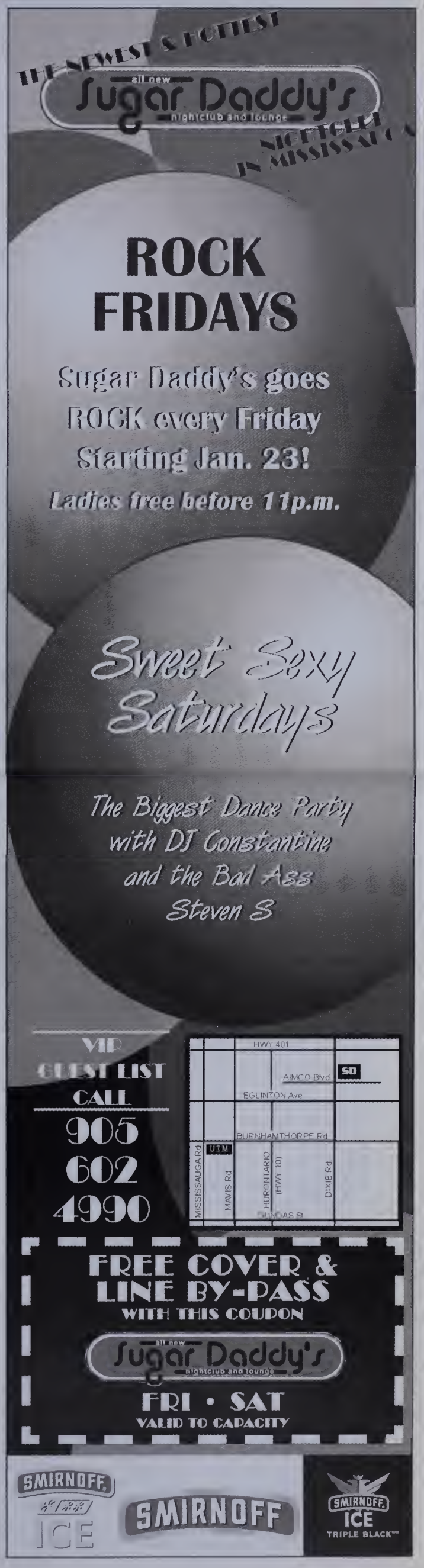
Shirdon looked at the international picture. "I feel that the hijab ban on French Muslims will be precedent-setting for other nations to do the same in the name of 'secularism'. Historically, France has been a beacon of progressive thinking, and this will probably cause other countries to follow in its footsteps," Shirdon said. "Remember that this has already been implemented or is being debated in numerous states such as Germany, Turkey, and Singapore. And while people may think, 'well, it will never happen in Canada'... have we forgotten the case of the young girl who was expelled from her private school for wearing hijab in Quebec?"

Could something like this happen in Canada? Some students said yes, citing cases in Quebec private schools where students have been expelled for refusing to remove the headscarf. Others disagree, reasoning that as a vibrantly diverse society, Canada is more inclusive and tolerant. One second year political science student summed it up. "I know it has already happened in [some] Quebec private schools. But on a national level, I don't think it will - because Canada doesn't have a consistent, homogenous culture. It is already diverse - whereas France is purportedly doing this to contain their perceived cultural identity."

Correction Notice

The "Fierce lyrics" article on page 13 of Issue 16 incorrectly stated the names of the organizer of the event and two participants. **Jay Singh** organized *Display Rage Set II*. **Spex** battled in the finals and **China Wyte** gave his position to Bless.

The Medium regrets this error.



Careers for writers

continued from front

Hunter's body of work in his career so far either matches or surpasses the other panelists: a former senior writer for CBC Television/Newsworld's marketing and sales promotions department, the same in the Discovery Channel and a weekly column for its Web site, an author of four books on the Discovery Channel's programming, and presently an associative creative director for Ramm Communications, Inc. But before all that, he was a student at Erindale who walked away with a degree in Sociology. He credits perseverance on acquiring work.

"I kept knocking on doors until they were fed up with me," he said. "You got to show a lot of drive, a lot of spunk...and know when to draw the line." Hunter even went so far as to agree with Poei's opinion on needing the right type of "moxie" to make it in the writing business. Before his fifteen minutes were up, he added, "If your dream is to write, then write."

During the question and answer period of the panel, it was obvious by the round of questions - from how to avoid the struggling writer motif to what divisions can use good writers to the amount of impact these people's stories had on the audience. On the subject of income, Hunter commented, "I don't do it for the money but rather for the craft."

After the event was over, its organizer spoke about the purpose of it.

"As a career assistant, one of our jobs throughout the year is to organize a big panel event in a particular career area. I chose writing and communications because I felt that compared to past panels it hadn't really been represented as a panel event" Andrea Lopes, a career assistant at UTM's career centre said. "I think there are a lot of misconceptions about writing that you either have to be a novelist or a journalist. The best way to learn about the opportunities in the writing world are to listen to experts who have experience there."

Employee treatment will affect service

continued from front

employees are being treated. It makes me want to buy less food, I don't want to support a company that treats its employees this way," Irene Kokoshko a first year life sciences student said.

Second year chemistry student, Lexy Fifer, felt that poor treatment of Aramark employees will lead to poor service for Aramark customers.

"I think the way the employees are treated will affect the service that the students are getting," she said. "We aren't going to get the happy smiling service; instead we'll get more depressed, unhappy service. The company will lose business because of that. Aramark is hurting its own business by treating its employees badly." This sentiment was also voiced by the employees.

"She doesn't treat us right and in a workplace the boss should treat you right," McDowell said. "To be honest, if she is not treating us well, then you know the customer is not going to be treated well by us," McDowell said.

UTM recently created and filled a new administrative position to oversee food service on campus. Teresa Carlisl is UTM's new food services coordinator whose job is to act as a liaison between food service providers and the university.

"I think it is very difficult for me to comment at this point because I just learned about this," she said. "My job is specifically to look at concerns and any complaints that may come up. What I will be doing next is going over there (Spigel) and looking into exactly what is going on. As for hearing that employees cannot talk to one another, that is absolutely not appropriate, but there is always two sides to the story so I will have to look into the matter further."

With angry employees and a tight-lipped management, Aramark's days at UTM may be numbered. While the company's contract with Erindale extends until 2005, it includes a clause that allows either party to cancel the contract at any time. Currently, a Request-for-Proposal has been sent out by UTM to several companies requesting them to submit bids for providing food service to the campus. At present, four companies including Aramark have responded.

In addition, Aramark was harshly criticized last December by Blind Duck Pub staff for restricting customers to one condiment each. Aramark claimed the issue was a miscommunication.

***All names of Aramark employees have been changed to protect their identity.**

UTM goes skiing

By Adrian Barek

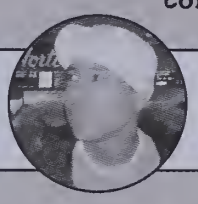
Two busloads of UTM students were treated to ideal conditions for skiing at Blue Mountain Resort last Friday. The trip, organized by Student Centre Events and the Erindale College Student Union (ECSU) allowed UTM students to purchase discounted lift tickets for $10 each. Ryan Acheson, a fourth year theatre and drama studies student went snowboarding on the trip.

"It was some of the best snow conditions I have ever experienced at Blue Mountain," he said, "The overnight dumping of snow made for a super duper day of super special snowboarding."

In other news, ECSU president Adil Mirza was spotted tumbling down a hill in a flurry of snow.

Question of the week

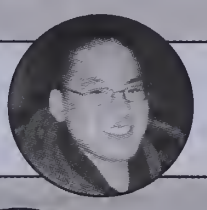
"Why are you standing in the Timmy's line when William's has coffee and no line?"



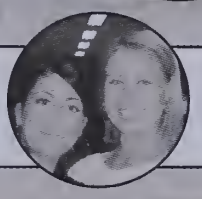
Ric Graham, fourth year commerce student

"I'm a student, I have no money for Williams! It's too expensive!"

"Because of the Hot Ladies behind me . . . . Next Please!!"



Warren Wai, fourth year crime and deviance student



Diana Antinozzi & Marta Biszko, first year commerce students

"If everyone else is in line for it then it must be better! Plus Warren is in line!!"

"Timmies is closer to the tables and they put the sugar and cream in for you!"

Padminie Boodram , second year life sciences student

photos/Jim Chen

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EDITORIAL

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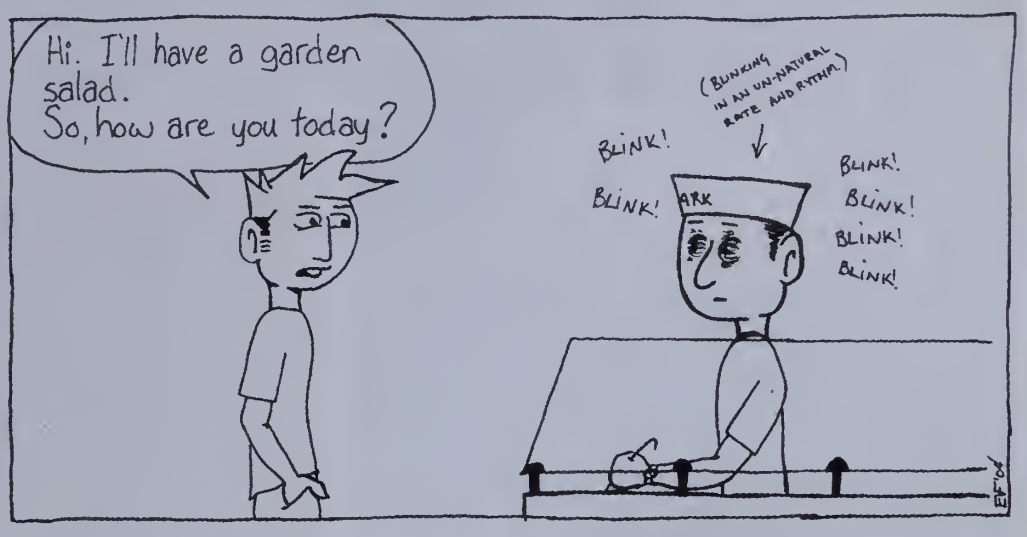

Stop the food fight

It's about time. UTM has hired a brave soul to untie the knots between students and food service providers on campus. Teresa Carlisl was hired in December 2003 as Food Services Coordinator. Ms. Carlisl is encouraging students and faculty to address any concerns regarding food services on campus. She is determined to resolve the main problems; long line-ups, more variety, signage and hours of operation. We wish her luck in her new role.

Dissatisfaction with food services at UTM is not a new phenomenon. Students are typically unhappy with menu choices, quality of food and high prices. Students studying late at night who need something to eat only have the option of chips and chocolate bars from vending machines.

In a survey conducted by the UTM Food Committee, 101 respondents voiced their opinions. Their concerns and recommendations are items that Carlisl will further investigate and develop solutions.

Hopefully Carlisl will offer some suggestions on how to improve work relationships between Aramark and their employees. This may be out of her realm. Attitudes that employees have towards their bosses is substantially different in every organization.

Aramark employees at UTM are accusing management of mistreating them in a "hostile and unfriendly manner." Aramark currently controls Spigel Hall, Pizza Pizza, Tim Hortons and the food in the pub. Staff members are fed up. Management is not granting them time away from their work responsibilities to take care of personal obligations. They are complaining about poor working conditions. Kitchen employees are not permitted to speak to each other while they are working. Even saying good morning to your fellow co-workers is unacceptable.

The image of a business is critical to its success. Dissatisfied workers will perform poorly and unfortunately it's the customer who suffers the most. It's horrible being a customer when a sales associate, a server or a custimer service representative takes his/her frustrations out on you. It will certainly make you think twice about using their services in the future. This is very serious for the food services on campus, especially since they are already under the microscope.

It's true that bosses can be incompetent, rude, and sometimes forgetful. It's human nature, and surprisingly they are human just like you and I. Before pointing your finger at your boss, consider for a moment that maybe the problem is you instead and not your boss. It's a common mistake for employees to expect their boss to take care of them.

It's unfortunate that Betsy Gutnik refused to speak with ***The Medium*** because there are always two sides to a story. Gutnik obvioulsy has specific ways on how she handles her staff. Whether it's the right approach or the wrong approach, her tactics are not working. I'm speculating that Gutnik doesn't allow her staff to talk during operations because she may see it as a potential safety hazard. It's very easy to forget about the hot stove while engaging in an interesting conversation. As for not granting days off for appointment's and obligations, I don't know. Perhaps food services are understaffed. Who knows? Maybe Aramark staff should articulate their concems with their managers and supervisors.

Staff and management need to break down the communication barrier because there is probably a logical reason for Gutnik's decisions just as there are reasons for disappointed employees. Obviously Gutnik has a communication impediment. Her staff members want reasons for her decisions. She may even get a little respect by speaking with her staff and making them feel like they are part of the same team.

Her effectiveness as a responsible manager should also concern the students and staff on this campus because we all have standards and expectations on the quality of service we want to receive. Gutnik is responsible to her staff members and the UTM community.

The Medium is published weekly by Medium II Publications, a non-profit, incorporated student organization. The opinions expressed within are those of the writers and editors and do not necessarily reflect those of Medium II Publications. **The Medium**'s mandate includes informing students of local and national concerns, and giving Erindale College students an opportunity to practice journalism. Anticipation courtesy of Royal Rumble. Go Benoit!

adrian hot on water dirty x rogers during his skiing trip adrian and darryl for a pic what your fat fucking mouth adrian i worry adrian y u r not a prick people are ignorant darryl said that whole others love the baby fat there are some who just produce more romano wants to know if adrian tapped on the mountain and plowed the snow romano kicked johanna off the computer I hate email hackers romano is going to have his own arm wrestling column nobreast is going postal tomorrow and add is going to get punked I keep telling j hanna that she can go home but she s not listening She s passed out on the sofa p h said this office is a place of business he s a manager now adrian is having number issues with Mississauga transit We don t know how to spell happy new year in Chinese Adrian confirmed the spelling with a few kind Chinese students Hope we got it right We don t want official arrogant adrian is having a coronary attack thanks for s wrong in on at steph s work on the ad paper looks good hope you like the ads section marina be sure to set those parts straight no I didn t have a skiing accident darryl my turtle neck is supposed to keep me warm it s rather supply in this office wouldn t you agree adrian I m going to put a stop to parking infant studies reserved spots why is it so cold in here I already said that I noticed sent puffs are less fat i need sleep nite nite

ROSI fills classes up to capacity

Dear Editor,

This is my fourth year at UTM, and I have noticed a certain lacking in the basic administration of the school.

The room assignments, since last year, have been full of problems. Full year courses are switching rooms part way through the semester, classes are double booked for rooms, and room numbers are switched at the very last minute. Some room assignments even break the posted maximum capacities.

ROSI has allowed some courses to become over-registered. Another big registration issue – certain courses are not using ROSI to its fullest potential. In some Mathematics Department courses, the tutorial times were not posted on ROSI for students to sign-up. Instead, the TA's just announced the available times, and had all 125-plus students crowd the front of the room to try to sign up for the time that they need.

The room assignments were not even worked out, even by the second week of classes. In still another class this term, the meeting time and room will be switched, though the full details have yet to be worked out.

One, maybe two, errors are unavoidable in any academic term. But since these are examples primarily from my own personal experience, I can't help but wonder exactly how many other courses are having these problems, and what other problems the students are dealing with.

If this was the first year that I had any problems, I could let it slide. This is the second year this school has operated this way.

All I ask is that Administration take a look at how and why these very basic functions are not being fulfilled. Please take the last two (possibly more?) years and learn from them.

Melissa Langeman

Campus remains open despite poor conditions

Dear Editor,

Winter is here – there's no doubting that fact. Well, maybe some people are.

Tonight's newscast advised viewers that many schools would be closed this evening, including the U of T Scarborough campus. For some reason, the Mississauga campus is still open. I don't understand why especially since UTM is known as a commuter campus.

With warnings on television indicating things like "zero visibility", "severe cold alert" and "a drive that would normally take 15 minutes, should take two hours," I don't need to be told twice not to get into my car.

Looking out my window, I have a clear view of Dundas St. Aside from all the snow being blown around, to me it's a big, long parking lot by the looks of it – traffic is barely moving.

And apparently, we're supposed to get into that parking lot and drive to school if we have evening courses.

Yeah, right. The roads are a mess, and I don't want to be a part of that. I don't want anyone to be a part of that, but I guess that's life.

I don't understand why UTM is so uptight about closing the school for the day when it is clearly unsafe to drive in this weather. Then again, I don't understand why UTM does a lot of the things it does. For example, why I still don't have an important mark back for a course that is designated a pre-requisite for a course I'm currently enrolled in.

In two short days, we'll be two weeks into a new semester, at which point I'm pretty much screwed for finding a course in which I have not missed lab sections and too many lectures if I didn't successfully complete that first course.

Hey, I guess at least our school is consistent – consistently late marks, consistently open and above all, consistently unchanging its annoying ways.

Heather Fittante

Medium Poll

Do you enjoy your job?

How important are boss/employee relationships?

Send us your comments and experiences.

Responses will be published in our next issue.

medium@canada.com

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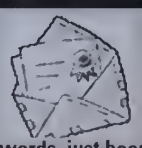
Letters to the editor will be edited for spelling, grammar, style, and coherence. Letters will not exceed 500 words in print. Letters that incite hatred, violence or letters that are racist, homophobic, sexist, or libelous, will not be published. Letters reflect opinions of the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editor-in-chief, other editors and staff, or *The Medium*'s Board of Directors.



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Arts & Entertainment

Jack the Ripper and crazy puppets conjure havoc in play 'Dear Boss'

By Gita Rai Gulati

The name Paul Bernard can catch people's attention. Charles Manson can stir people's interests. Jack the Ripper can make people go mad.

'Dear Boss' is a play that explores the craze surrounding mass murderers. This chaos follows the furor that Jack the Ripper created when he anonymously murdered prostitutes. Jack the Ripper was never officially caught, but there were many suspects.

One of the suspects the police publicly pointed to was Eric Woolfe's (playwright) great, great uncle. This family lineage and the Washington Sniper case last summer inspired Woolfe to write 'Dear Boss'.

He sets his play in England at the time of the Ripper murders. It is the story of a young man trying to solve the Ripper murders and the mishmash of people he engages in order to do so.

This play is concocted of some unlikely heroes, a surprisingly lewd and humourous script, an exploration of issues that are still relevant today and the quirky use of puppetry.

It's a strange sort of medicine that Wolfe is administering, but it works. The play feels like a dream, as Woolfe eccentrically examines a nightmare.

The dreamlike atmosphere of the play is largely by the way Woolfe's elements clash. His hero is a young American man who is determined to solve the identity of Jack the Ripper.

This man believes in all kinds of ridiculous magical and mystical things, so it is no surprise when his sidekick turns out to be the Elephant Man.

Woolfe's heroine in the story is an unwed pregnant prostitute contemplating abortion. Her lover is an ordinary fisherman who can't pay the bills. These characters generally seem either silly or just downright boring but Woolfe manages to bring depth and soul to each of them.

The naiveté of the American detective touches our heart, and we sympathize with the Elephant Man's loneliness and kind heart. The prostitute's strength wins us over and even the boring fisherman evokes a response from us by the end of the play.

Woolfe manages to look deep within the soul of his characters without getting sappy and dramatic.

Rather, he reveals his characters through humourous interchanges that are often rude, crude and shocking. He further pushes the envelope with his exploration of contemporary issues in this play.

He questions racism, as he examines the blame that the Jews received from the police in the murders.

He explores woman's right to abortion and women's freedom; one memorable scene has a sorceress defending abortion as the only way to free oppressed unmarried women.

He even questions the societal stereotype of what makes a man mad. He does this through his examination of not only Jack the Ripper's motives, but the strange men themselves who are fascinated with him.

Woolfe uses numerous puppets to portray these men, as well as suspects, police men and prostitutes. The puppets are well composed, and of various sizes and shapes. Their clashes in appearance help to give the play its frenzied effect.

At times the men behind the puppets can be distracting. The actors did not manage to keep out of sight behind the puppets. It seemed as though it was almost done purposely but it was distracting. It was also disappointing since the puppets were so well designed; it was a pity to lose focus of them.

Of course, the cast had to be forgiven. It wasn't only their multi- tasking (they each played a hero, as well as various puppets).

It wasn't even the admirable scenes where the actors are not only playing one of the heroes, but also a puppet character who is interacting with the hero.

The cast consisted of Rebecca Northan, Michael Waller and the playwright himself, Eric Woolfe. Each one

of them is endowed with an amazing stage presence and charisma. It was this that made the bare set forgivable, the unreadable signs dismissible and the distractions forgettable.

By the end of the play, fish fall from the sky, and you realize you have just seen something rare: a playwright with immense promise. You almost have to shake your head before exiting the theatre.

'Dear Boss' is a trippy, witty, intelligent play that utilizes many fresh approaches to theatre, and thought.

'Dear Boss' manages to evoke a similar reaction to what people feel in reaction to mass murderers; I suspect that Eric Woolfe is more than a little crazy, yet at the same time I will be waiting anxiously and almost compulsively to see what he'll do next.

Dandy Warhols
Welcome to the Monkey House
EMI 2003

By Carol Mechedjian

The **Dandy Warhols** is comprised of **Courtney Taylor-Taylor** on vocals, **Zia McCabe** on keyboards/bass, **Peter Loew** on guitars and **Brent DeBoer** on drums and backing vocals.

They all grew up in Portland, Oregon. **Peter** and **Courtney** have been friends since high school. **Zia** worked at a local coffee shop with **Courtney's** friends and **Brent** is **Courtney's** cousin. They are quite close and their relationships are all intertwined. but **Peter** was the mastermind behind getting a "Rock and Roll" band together.

Thus far they have been relatively successful in their endeavour. Budweiser recently named them the band of the month. They have released four albums. Their latest album is titled *Welcome to the Monkey House.*

The second song 'We Used To Be Friends,' had me tapping my foot and bobbing my head to the music. The tune is a mixture of rock infused with techno beats, an upbeat tempo. It's definitely a song you can dance to. It'll get your blood pumping and adrenaline running despite its sad theme.

'Plan A', the third song on the album is a softer type of rock. Nonetheless it's the kind of music that will get played at clubs as it's got catchy tune, beats, rhythm and lyrics.

'I am a Scientist' gets you dancing to it almost immediately. It is a mix of punk and techno, maybe even soft rock but easily one of the best songs on this album.

'You Were The Last High' is reminiscent of country music and new age. It is most definitely easy listening. Meanwhile, 'Hit Rock Bottom' leans more towards rock, which is what their music is supposed to be all about.

'Heavenly' starts off sounding like the other tracks but gives you a surprise dose of rock. But that's it! Only a small dose and then it returns to the same formula as the other tracks on the album.

Don't get the wrong impression. They have softer, slower tracks like 'I am over it'; which is pleasant to the ear yet substantial enough in its beats to get your whole body bobbing along.

The last song, 'You Come In Burned,' is too long with very few lyrics. Usually I would not complain except that there really is no great solo performance in the long music-only sequences. The beat is not bad but you do tire of it quickly.

Overall, it's a great album, but tracks such as 'The Dandy Warhols Love Almost Everyone,' 'Insincere Because I' and 'I Am Sound' have softer beats and are not as upbeat as the remainder of the tracks. Also, you get the unmistakable feeling that all the beats on all the tracks on the album are the same, which does get boring and repetitive after a while.

'We Used To Be Friends'and 'I Am A Scientist' make listening to the album worthwhile, but I would not suggest buying this album unless you like this specific genre of music, which I am having a hard time putting my finger on as it is a mixture of genres, unlike much of the mainstream music nowadays.

CLUBS CORNER

For the week of January 26-30

February 3 – Baptist Student Ministries and Erindale Christian Fellowship are holding from 12 – 3:30 p.m. a free movie showing of *"The Gospel of John"* in the Student Centre Presentation Room

OUT @ UTM now have office hours in the S.E.C. office (Student Centre) addressing QUEER issues. Got questions? Wanna chat? Visit us!
Mondays: 2 – 3p.m., 5 – 6p.m.
Tuesdays: 5 – 7p.m.
Thursdays: 4 – 6p.m.

CLUBS CORNER

Don't Forget To Cheer For Erindale's Finest ...

Jan. 30
'The Atmosphere of Evil'
by Ella Chan &
Sarah Hutchison

Jan.31
'La Belle Artiste'
by Eric Frey

at the U of T Drama Festival

Show time(s) 7:30 p.m.
Tickets $10 students
$12 adults

THE BLIND DUCK

Italian Club presents
COLD AS I.C.E. Pub – This Thursday!
Doors open at 9p.m. Tickets $3 for members, $5 for non-members

A U.T.M. TRADITION

Heavy themes examined in new play

BY LARISSA PALASZCZUK

The **Theatre Passe Muraille** backspace is known as the home to many radical performances so I was prepared for something otherworldly.

Right as *Blood* began I was riveted. It started off with the main character Noelle (played by **Jane Spidell**) standing in the middle of the set with the spotlight beaming on her without make-up, which made her look human and believable.

She told a quick background history about herself. She's a recovering heroin addict back from a ten-year stint in jail for various crimes, none of which were her direct fault.

Her brother Chris (**Randy Hughson**), whom she hasn't seen in twelve years, is a recovering alcoholic who constantly preaches about God, the One who saved him from alcoholism.

A "friend", Martin, is mentioned, whom the audience never sees and only hears outrageous stories about, and who practically got Noelle in jail.

Chris decided to surprise his little sister by coming to her apartment, and right from the moment when he knocked on her door, it was clear that their relationship had never been a "normal" sibling kind.

Fights automatically broke out and very unusual histories were brought up. The siblings had an awkward yet comfortable attraction to one another.

They seemed very open to each other in all ways possible. One incident showed this to the audience - Chris found out that while Noelle was attending her recovery meetings, she met a man and had two very intimate dates with him.

His jealousy got the best of him and he strangely got the details out of his sister - she reenacted the highly sexual date on her brother, with him playing the role of her man.

Noelle had a very desperate fixation with money - which led to her fixation with heroin. She did anything, including suffocating her own brother with a plastic GAP shopping bag, to get to it, even if it was a small sum.

Throughout the play, sex was a money-making commodity. It turned out that Noelle had been a prostitute for drug money.

The play ended the way it began: with Noelle in the centre of the spotlight, summarizing what had and probably will happen; that it seemed everything worked to their advantage.

By the end, you feel this peculiar pity for the pair and the lives they lead. You do not think you should be feeling it, but you do.

The story is not fantastical or "Hollywood" in any sense...it is real life.

It's difficult to believe that there are souls in this world so mixed up with sex, money, drugs, religion and greed and uncleanliness.

The title 'Blood' was a perfect choice with many connotations. Thankfully there was some humour, although dark and probably unintended.

The realistic themes in the play create an unusually and alarmingly genuine life story.

It grabs your hand and shows you the slums of life, and you come out with a valuable learning experience.

Disc *thrills* some with Cali charm

The Thrills
So Much For The City
EMI 2003

MARINA SIGAREVA

The process of writing *So Much For The City* definitely shaped the final outcome.

The Thrills, a Dublin band, moved to San Diego for four months. They sat on a sofa on a beach and wrote the songs for this album.

The influence of California becomes evident quickly, just by scanning the song names: 'Santa Cruz (You're Not That Far)', 'Big Sur', 'Hollywood Kids', 'Your Love Is like Las Vegas'.

Compared to **The Strokes**, and influenced by the West Coast music of the Sixties and Seventies, The Thrills look and sound like a knockoff of the exact thing that influenced them.

The first single, 'Santa Cruz (You're Not That Far)' has vocalist **Conor Deasy** repeating the song title during most of the song.

'Big Sur' sounds like much of the album - incongruent lyrics that seem pointless and airy. It also contains parts from 'Theme From The Monkees'. One thing the band got right, though, was using banjos in the song.

'Hollywood Kids' contains elements of country music - namely, the word 'keen'. Other than that, the song fades in with the rest of the album.

The Thrills have gotten much media attention lately. They opened for **The Smiths' Morrissey**, and the band played a much-hyped show a few weeks ago in Toronto. But it all seems undeserved.

The Thrills, while maybe a great live band, give a weak performance on *So Much For The City*.

Revis
Places for Breathing
Epic 2003

BY HEATHER FITTANTE

For those of you who enjoy bands like **Theory of a Deadman**, **Creed** and **P.O.D.**, listen up - the eleven track debut album, 'Places for Breathing,' by **Revis**, is something that might please you.

The quintet, formerly known as **Orco**, re-emerged under this new identity, and quite frankly, they sound like something that would result if you merged the former three bands.

The album was produced by modern rock heavyweight **Don Gilmore (Linkin Park, Trust Company)** and mixed by **Andy Wallace (Nirvana, System of a Down)** and **Alan Moulder (The Smashing Pumpkins, Nine Inch Nails)**.

With all these big names responsible for the board tasks, you might expect something a bit more dazzling. But I'd say that the album's mediocre at best.

By grouping it in with similar sounding bands straight from the first listen, to me, indicates the same old, worn-out sound. This time it's a slightly different band with slightly different lyrics.

The title track for the album is a moody, almost depressing song: "We try to say with confidence/ That we're picking up oblivion/ Inside of you/ All around you there's a feeling you lost/ That everything beautiful/ Is not what it was/ Whenever you were on top". While providing some interesting couplets, other songs don't possess the same level of complexity, but instead border on repetitious.

The opening song, 'Caught in The Rain', sounds eerily like **Theory of a Deadman**, and was appropriately titled, echoing the lyrics, "Well, I was caught in the rain/ Wasting my time on the ground".

The songs range from interesting and somewhat complex lyrics all the way to boring, and set to a neatly packaged, **Nickelback**-esque rock backdrop.

Though ***Places For Breathing*** has a good, consistent flow between the songs, we already have a large enough selection of bands that produce this sound.

Revis contributes a small, if insignificant, piece to the genre.

Maybe with a little time and more experience, this band can develop their own unique musical sound, and distance themselves from the familiarity of the crowd.

Features

SAC plans to raise funds and awareness

By Deana Hathout

You probably woke up this morning and heard the good news: today's high is going to be – 78 Celsius. You decided that you would need to get another pair of socks to go over the three pairs you wore to bed. After all, you need to stave off frostbite when you make that ungodly trek to North from South via the five minute walk (which, in reality, is eight minutes and 32 seconds in the two feet of snow outside, but who's counting?).

Ah, the joys of the first three months of courses in the aptly named "spring term."

While we contemplate the virtues of long johns and extra pairs of socks this winter, some students contemplate other things. Specifically, we think of whether or not someone else will freeze to death this winter because of lack of shelter and of the basic amenities of the Canadian winter wardrobe, such as jackets, hats, and mittens.

Since 1991, poverty levels in Toronto have risen by 61 per cent, with many families living on as little as $3.81 per person per day, after the cost of rent. How much is $3.81? It doesn't cover the $4.10 cost of a large Caramel Corretto I covet on my morning commute to school.

photo/ web

Wouldn't a blanket be better than a garbage bag? Please donate to the homeless.

Concerned students at the Student Administrative Council (SAC)'s Ministry of Social Justice (MSJ) have taken the opportunity to raise awareness about the plight of the homeless this winter. In conjunction with events planned for the Winter Carnival, sponsored by Students' Centre Events and SAC, students at the MSJ plan on using the day as a platform for increasing consciousness about homelessness through fundraising initiatives and a winter clothing drive.

"We are looking to collect clothing," Nazia Khan, one of the organizers for this event said. "Because of the particularly harsh conditions lately, we are hoping students will bring in items that people who do not have the luxury of a home this winter will need: hats, gloves or mittens, blankets, sleeping bags, and, of course, jackets."

To fundraise, MSJ is recruiting students to sit outside and beg for change throughout the day. All proceeds will go to benefit United Way.

"At UTM, we aren't exposed to the problem as acutely as, perhaps, a student at the downtown campus," Sadia Ali, Minister of Social Justice said. "However, homelessness and poverty still exist whether we see it every day or not, and it is our duty as members of humanity to try to do something about it, even if it is as simple as donating the toonie that would have gone towards the purchase of a coffee or leaving your old pair of gloves to someone who really needs them. Every little bit helps."

On Jan. 26, students are asked to remember the less fortunate by dropping off warm clothes to be donated to Toronto's homeless. Given the current dip in temperatures, there is a special need being placed on donations of hats, gloves/mittens, jackets/coats, scarves, sleeping bags, blankets, socks, and sweaters. For those students who do not care to lug their wardrobe to school, monetary donations are also welcome.

For more information regarding this initiative and others put on by the Student Administrative Council, drop by the SAC office.

Rant: Switching rooms

By Nerrad Evorglens

I walked from the North Building today, talking with a friend and laughing about how cold it is, when it occurred to me that something was strange - we have a one hour class in the North Building and a one hour tutorial in the South Building immediately afterwards. That means the entire student body, professor and all, has to pack up their belongings, bundle up, leave the North Building, do the five minute walk, and reassemble in a different room in the South Building to continue the lesson. Am I missing something?

I know that scheduling of classrooms must be a challenge, and often it makes sense to have tutorials in different locations because the classes are supposed to be smaller, but that is not the case here. I also understand that lecture rooms cannot meet the requirements of a lab, so some classes need to move to access equipment and such, but that is not the case here either. These are the same students, the same number of people, and the same professor all moving to a different room in a different building that is no different from the class we just moved from. What is the purpose of this?

I don't know about you, but I spend the first couple days of a term consulting my schedule for directions. After that it's supposed to become habit. The funny thing about this class is that it's never in the same place twice. Seriously. I've had courses that meet two or three times a week in two different classrooms, but I have never had a class that meets twice a week in three different classrooms. This is special. Special like gum in your hair. I don't even know where I'm supposed to be on Friday.

I figure the administration is training us to be spies; they want to see what we will do, unquestioningly. The next big step will be to relocate classes on the half hour just to see if we'll follow. I can imagine what the students of the future will face.

CLASS: PHL342
MEETING TIME: Monday, 18:00 – 21:00.
LOCATION:
18:00 – 18:30 NE201
18:30 – 19:00 SE3130
19:00 – 19:30 The Tennis Court
19:30 – 20:00 The little room beside the men's washroom, north building.
20:00 – 20:30 Back to the tennis court
20:30 – 21:00 Spigel Hall.

Playing musical classrooms is not contributing to the educational experience, so it must be a test; a philosophy professor might do something like this. I'm tempted to question him about it, but maybe *not* questioning him is part of the test. They usually want you to follow the leader so I think I'll just do it and show him how smart I am. Alternatively, this could be a test whereby he wants us to question him because he doesn't want us to simply follow the crowd. Maybe I should remain in the original class and collect my reward for seeing through the manipulation. Better still, I'll tell my friend to remain in class, and I'll follow the other students and she can tell me how it turns out.

I'm going to do so well this year. I can feel it. I have it all figured out. If you need any help solving similar problems, get in touch with me through *The Medium*. It's a great paper. They'll never make you do the five minute walk for nothing.

(Editor's note: Thanks for the compliment, Nerrad. It's true too: no walking, just writing.)

Rant: How my program is like a cult

By Johanna Kristolaitis

I am not saying the Theatre and Drama Studies (TDS) program *is* a cult; I am only saying that it is *like* a cult. I must begin with this disclaimer, as I'm sure some of my teachers read this paper. In fact, the similarities between TDS and cults are numerous. It kind of creeped me out when I realized this.

I came to this realization while preparing for the role of Tanis in Theatre Erindale's upcoming production of *The Vic* by Leanna Brodie. Tanis is a cult member who has recently left the group, and I felt I needed to understand cults in order to understand and perform her role. At any rate, here are warning signs of cults, also found in TDS.

1. A group name which distinguishes group members as elite and separate from normal society, with the possibility for unique opportunities: TDS is often referred to as "the program" by both faculty and students. Opportunities such as Independent Student Productions (ISPs) are only open to people in "the program" or related programs (like Art and Art History and such). Parties hosted by theatre students are sometimes called program parties, although other people are often there; when meeting these other people, they will often say "Oh, I'm not in the program..." to explain why you don't recognize them. Also, each class has a name which assigns a group identity: Fight Club, Rowdies, Ladies, Family, etc.

2. Controlling time, environment and social interaction: Students in "the program" have little opportunity to meet people outside "the program," hence the confusion with other people at parties, mentioned above. This is largely because our Tuesdays and Thursdays are the property of "the program" for four years (Sheridan classes and/or theatre crew work), as well as many of our evenings and weekends (rehearsals and shows). Many academic classes that go towards our TDS Specialist requirements are made up almost exclusively of program students.

There are 24 hours of rehearsal a week: Monday to Thursday, 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., and Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. However, when you get close to a show, there is also the dreaded "cue-to-cue" (I just finished one for The Vic), which is a 12 hour day for actors, longer for some crew members, and an all-around no-fun time that you can't get out of.

3. Regulation of food and/or access to proper nutrition: In first and second year, you have a class in Oakville that ends at 1:00 p.m. and one at Erindale that starts at 2:00 p.m. (theatre crew work, actually). In third and fourth year, Sheridan classes end at 5:00 p.m. and rehearsal starts at 6:00 p.m. Add in other classes, transportation, sleeping (which we get little of), and all the little things life throws your way, and this leaves little time for eating, period, let alone eating a properly balanced diet.

4. Following a set of rules intended only for members, even when those rules seem confusing or illogical; if you challenge the rules, you will be punished by the leader: We're given a blue duotang with program rules and course outlines and such at the beginning of first year, and we're expected to read and remember it thoroughly. This rather large set of paper is referred to as "the blue book" and it is to be our "Bible" for our four years in "the program." If you go against the rules of the blue book, you are subject to the wrath of our program leader, even if you have been given an exemption by other program authorities. Punishment ranges from bad grades to being pulled from a show to academic suspension. There are also the rules of acting that must be followed, like a set of beliefs.

Or, at the very least, you must pretend you are following this method, even if you use a different one (and there are many). Refusal to do so is punished with bad grades.

5. A set of terms or phrases known only to members that leads to confusion in conversations with non-members: A few examples: JP, FOH, ISP, Q2Q, LX, SQ, SM (a.k.a. Zeus, Jacob or g.o.d.), ASM, (a.k.a. Leah, j.c.), ISU, 5 per cent, Professional Patrick, Ronologues, panda muffin muffin panda, "I'm getting (insert sound effect here), and it should be more (insert different sound effect)," method, and props. Don't know what I'm talking about? That's my point.

Rts aren't a joke; if you know or suspect someone you know is involved in a cult, please intervene. But there are cult-like groups that you can joke about, like many theatre programs, as they all put a lot of restrictions on your time and activities. In the words of too many TDS students, "This program owns my soul!"

Creative Writing

Snow bond

BY TANAZ BHATHENA

It was a quiet Saturday morning. The smell of coffee, freshly baked muffins, the warmth of a heater and a good novel felt like heaven that day. Outside, the wind howled like a wraith, raging at those few unfortunate travellers who had attempted to venture out of their homes. Snow fell, capturing the land in its shimmering white embrace. It looked beautiful and deadly at the same time.

I sipped my cappuccino and thanked the gods that I was safely confined in Mama Rose's warm little café. Mama Rose worked full-time at the café, despite having employees; she never trusted anyone else with the cash register. I felt a shadow sneak across the window. Marking my page in the novel, I turned around to see a wrinkled face giving me a gap-toothed grin. He distinctly resembled a seedy character from the novel I was reading.

I was about to change my table, when the man pointed to Mama Rose and mouthed the word "door". By that time, Mama Rose had noticed the man and left her cash register to let him in.

"Damn door always gets stuck in the winter," she muttered.

She heaved open the door with her strong ebony arms. The little man grinned up at Mama adoringly and said, "Rose, can I wait out the snowstorm here?"

Mama nodded and guided him to a little table in the corner. Within a minute or two, she brought over a steaming mug of coffee.

"It's on the house," she told him, with a trace of gentleness in her gruff voice.

I pretended to read my book the whole time, but I was really observing the interactions between Mama and the little man.

"You stink, Joe," she told him, matter-of-factly.

"Aw, Rose. You're just looking for an excuse to reject me," he teased her. "Or are you afraid that I'll drive your customers away?" he asked, with a glance in my direction.

I quickly turned a page.

"Don't you worry about it," I heard her reply.

I couldn't help eavesdropping on their conversation. I had never seen Mama so chatty. She sat down with Joe instead of pouring over her books near the cash register or grilling her employees.

"I got a job you know," Joe told her.

"Then you can save up some money and get yourself a new winter jacket and throw that old rag in the garbage," Mama said.

"My lucky jacket?" he replied. "No, Rose, I would never part with that, not even for you!"

Soon they fell into a rhythm. Mama scolded and Joe flirted. For every reprimand, there was a coy comeback. I noticed that Mama's son was snoozing behind the counter; his dark head resting on the cool wood. I began to read once more, the voices of Mama and Joe fading into the background. The slam of Mama's palm on the table made me look up again.

"Why do you tolerate him?" Mama demanded.

"Now Rose, I will not hear anything about this," he said gently.

"No, this time you are going to listen to me! You are not going to let him treat you like dirt," she implored urgently. "What he's doing to you is against the law, Joe. You have a right to go to the authorities for help."

"I can't do it...I've...tried." He sounded sad.

"*I'll* call the authorities and tell them about it," Mama offered.

Joe shook his head furiously. "It's my business. I'll take care of it."

Mama looked like she had been slapped. He glanced out of the window. Snowfall had ceased.

"I'd better get going now," he said uneasily.

Mama nodded. He slipped on his still wet jacket, lifted his cap in a wave towards Mama Rosa and left. She stared at his retreating form and shook her head.

"How stupid can the male ego get?" she muttered out aloud. Then she turned towards me. "That man thinks he's so self-sufficient that he doesn't even need a friend. I don't know why he even comes over here to see me," she declared. "His so-called son called him here for his *retirement* so Joe sold his house and belongings and came to Canada. The moment Joe landed here, his god-awful son took away his passport. He makes Joe pay rent. He makes him *work* at this age. Joe won't even go to his embassy for help. He thinks that his *son* will come to his senses soon enough," she said in a voice hoarse with emotion.

> "I had never seen Mama so chatty. She sat down with Joe instead of pouring over her books near the cash."

I didn't know how to reply. My silence must have reminded her that I was a stranger, too; a frequent customer, but unknown. She apologized for her outburst and went back to the cash register. She smacked her drowsy son to wake him up.

"Someone could empty the cash register in front of you and you wouldn't know," she scolded.

I couldn't concentrate on my novel. I stared blankly at a page for a moment and decided to go home. I paid Mama for the coffee and left the café.

My boots crunched on the freshly fallen snow as I trekked uphill to my house. As I walked I couldn't help thinking about the incident at Mama Rose's Café. Mama's friendship with Joe was a bond of snow – cold, superficial and fragile. The warmth of personal relationships or emotion melted it like a snowman in sunlight, leaving behind a puddle of ungraspable water.

This free flight offer applies to flights from Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, Halifax, or St. John's for selected March tour departures. Add on $100 to fly from Kingston, London, or Quebec City. Add on $200 to fly from Fredericton, Moncton, Saint John, or Charlottetown. Fly for $99-$199 with selected tour departures in April and May (plus add-on fares if applicable). Other fares available from other cities. Must be paid in full by March 31/04 or immediately if booked within 45 days of departure. Weekend surcharges, taxes, and other government fees not included. Valid International Student Identity Card (ISIC) required. Other restrictions apply. Drop by for full details.

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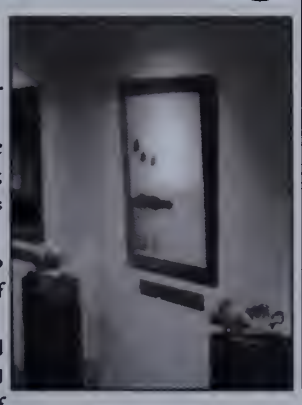
POETRY CORNER

The Painting

BY KATARINA ILIC



I have the power to stir strong emotions.

To many, I am the image of the sun rising and the water fall in all its grace.

Like the green trees and grass, I bring the feeling of romance.

I can live in a great hall where everyone visits me. I can be any shape, full of colour, and hold the image of Mother Nature in all her glory. I am as quiet as the night.

Some say that if you are in my presence long enough, I become part of you. I feel happy and bring joy to others.

When people stop to look at me I feel beautiful, important. There are many like me in the world, each unique in its own way, carrying the soul of the artist.

I age but you don't see the difference. I take pride in telling you I am a painting, an extension of someone's soul and emotions. Like you, I can be happy or sad.

I'm always good and unique even when I am bad. Come sir or madam, say I. Come share my joy and happiness.

I am a work of art.

I am a painting.

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(416) 946-8371 or
sharon.brumer@utoronto.ca

Sports

Lady Eagles win thrilling game

By J. Swish

The women's Tri-Campus Basketball team got off to an extremely slow start in league play as they faced the unbeaten powerhouse, St. George Blue. UTM scored only thirteen points in the first half. The final score was 61–28 in what was one of the worst games played by the women's basketball team in years. To make matters worse, the score sheet was not filled out. No statistics on foul shots, points scored, or time of scoring were available to write a more in depth article. UTM will need to beat this team if they hope to repeat as Tri-Campus Champions this season.

In the second league game of the New Year, UTM faced St. George White without starter and team captain Marija Kosovski. UTM quickly leapt to a 15–6 lead ten minutes into the game, mostly due to Lindsey Sones' eight points. By the half, UTM held a twelve point edge and looked to be in complete control of the game. They would have been in a commanding lead if they shot more accurately from the foul line, where they went a dismal 5 for 16.

In the second half, UTM came out flat. St. George White switched to a man defense and UTM did not adjust to the added pressure. St. George collected the first eight points of the half before Sones scored UTM's first basket at the fifteen-minute mark.

St. George kept coming, and with less than five minutes in play, the game was tied. The lead changed hands four times until the final horn. St. George's Shelly Boudreau hit a key basket with less than twenty seconds left to lift her team into a 45–44 point lead. But UTM quickly moved the ball up the floor and found a wide-open Linda Williams under the basket. Williams, who replaced Lindsey Sones after she fouled out, made an amazing shot off the glass to give UTM a 46–45 point lead.

UTM's press almost came up with a steal on the ensuing inbounds. St. George maintained possession of the ball out of bounds near the score table with four seconds left. The inbounds pass went long and eventually was knocked out on the endline in the corner under UTM's basket with 2.4 seconds on the clock. Great defence on the inbounds play forced the St. George player to toss up an airball, sealing UTM's one-point win.

The team battled hard for victory and eight of the nine players scored. UTM was led by Sones who scored fifteen points, Shelley Roque with eleven, Williams scored six, including the game-winning basket, and Vanessa Centofante, who added four points.

The win puts UTM in second place in the Tri-Campus League. UTM's next game is against UTM Blue at home on Jan. 31 at 3:30 p.m. UTM is looking to make the game a little closer than the 33 point loss they suffered on the downtown campus two weeks ago.

photo/Darryl Sequeira

Coach Jack Krist puts his team through some rigourous drills after the team was spanked 61–28 on Jan. 18. The Lady Eagles bounced back with a thrilling 46–45 win over St. George White which vaulted them into second place.

UTM bleeds *Nursing*

By J. Swish

The UTM Division One Women's Basketball Team won their first league game on Jan. 19 by a slim one-point overtime victory. The win did not come easy, and if it were not for some clutch shooting by Steph Van de Ven and Danielle Wedge in the end of regulation, UTM would have lost.

With only six teammates on the day's roster, UTM was severely under staffed compared to Nursing's seven-player deep bench. UTM held a 24–15 point lead with fourteen minutes left in the second half. It was at this point that fatigue seemed to kick in and Nursing went on an 11–2 run, tying the game 26–26. The teams traded baskets and, with less than forty seconds to go, UTM trailed by two points. UTM took advantage of great rebounding opportunities on the offensive glass, accompanied by excellent passing. UTM found a wide-open Steph Van de Ven, who hit the jumper to tie the game and force OT.

In overtime, UTM got out to an early four-point lead, but let it slip. Some clutch shooting in the last minute and a half sealed the victory. The final score was UTM 38 and Nursing 37.

Steph Van de Ven came up huge for UTM scoring 18 points. Former division two player Danielle Wedge fit in nicely on the team and chipped in with 11 points, while Nancy Couture scored five points including a three-pointer in overtime.

photo/Louise Vanderwees

By Jeremy J. Jackson

On Jan. 20 UTM's men's volleyball team played their second game of the season against Grad House. The game went at a fast pace as UTM dominated from the beginning winning in two straight sets.

In the first set UTM did not play well, however, their talent and experience on the court overcame anything that Grad House could throw at them.

In the second set, UTM's second string of players got some playing time and showed the depth of talent that the team possess. UTM's improved to 2–0.

ECSU
Erindale College Student Union

Updates

THE 2ND ANNUAL ERINDALE FILM FESTIVAL

Bring your film into the ECSU Office by March 1st. Films should be a maximum of 15 minutes in length. The 2nd Annual Erindale Film Festival will be held on March 9th. Prizes will be awarded to the best films.

ECSU IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

If you're interested in volunteering and would like to get a volunteer certificate please contact advertising@ecsu-online.org for more information.

ECSU IS LOOKING FOR A SECRETARY

A secretary is needed to take minutes at weekly board meetings held on Monday evenings. Contact vpadmin@ecsu-online.org for more information or bring a resume and cover letter to the office.

Where To Find Us

Location: *Student Centre, Room 100*
Office Hours: *9:00 am to 5:00 pm*
(Closed for lunch between 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm)
Phone: *905.828.5429*
Website: *www.ecsu.ca*

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Ball hockey round-up

BY MATTHEW CARRIER

Last week, division one saw The Milkmen play their first game against a strong Do Dat Daeah. After their defeat against Fury, Do Dat Daeah came out with a strong performance, but The Milkmen were up to the challenge and quickly took the lead. Though they held on late into the second half, Do Dat Daeah soon tied it on a few quick goals, and then took over, completing the come-from-behind victory. The game ended 7–6 in favour of Do Dat Daeah. But both teams showed great ability and are something to watch for during play-offs.

The next game featured The Rushian Army going head-to-head with Div. 2 Was Full. Both of these teams had a tough first week and lost their opening games, but if this game was any indication, they learned from their mistakes. The Rushian Army tried their hand with a new goalie, where as D2WF put more emphasis on offence. The Rushian Army's new goalie played a heads up game and made some fabulous saves, but the scoring power of D2WF was just too much. They nailed the back of the net sixteen times, compared to The Rushian Army's seven. The Rushian Army has the next week off to regroup and plan their shot at the play-offs.

The Fury vs. the Waterboyz was a thrilling game of top-notch teams. It started intensely with both teams soon in penalty trouble, but this should be expected from such fierce rivals. Amidst all the elbows, checking, tripping and whistling, the players made some fantastic shots, saves, and goals for both sides. After the dust settled, The Waterboyz once again proved why they are the defending champions. The Fury will have to rethink their strategy for their next game.

Game of the Week
Tuesday 4:00P.M.

This week's big game features the hottest team in the league right now, The Waterboyz, flexing their muscles against Do Dat Daeah. Do Dat Daeah is coming off a great performance and win against The Milkmen, while the Waterboyz have a +14 rating and are the top team in the standings. As The Waterboyz try to keep their undefeated streak going, Do Dat Daeah will try to break that streak to go one game over five hundred. Both teams have remarkable skill and team work. This is a game surely not to be missed.

MEN'S INTRAMURAL BALL HOCKEY – DIVISION ONE

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	DF	GF	PTS
WATERBOYZ	2	2	0	1	0	20	4
PENGUINS	1	1	0	0	0	8	2
FURY	2	1	1	1	0	10	2
DO DAT DAEAH	2	1	1	0	0	8	2
DIV 2 WAS FULL	2	1	1	0	0	20	2
MILKMEN	1	0	1	0	0	5	0
RUSHIAN ARMY	2	0	2	0	0	8	0

TOP 10 SCORERS – DIVISION ONE

NAME	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS
Mark Wright	Div 2 Was Full	2	6	5	11
Eddie Jurinic	Waterboyz	2	8	2	10
Paolo Caramanico	Waterboyz	2	4	4	8
Amon Paul Kondola	Div 2 Was Full	2	2	6	8
Mike Cullen	Div 2 Was Full	2	4	3	7
Brandon Balogh	Rushian Army	2	4	2	6
Paul Peca	Do Dat Daeah	2	4	2	6
Peter Kozovski	Milkmen	2	4	1	5
Justin Sconci	Fury	2	2	3	5
Will Brooks	Div 2 Was Full	2	2	3	5

Check out *The Medium*'s website
http://medium.sa.utoronto.ca

Whalers not extinct!

BY CORY ALEXANDER

Weeks one and two showed that Division Two hockey will be as good as, or better than, Division One this season. Some big names have already climbed to the top of the league, such as Chris Jackson and The Whalers, who won their second game handily, dismantling the Kommerce Killers 18–2.

Jackson had nine points in his only game to tie Cory Johnson, who scored nine points in a week one victory for SMV 12–1 over the Erindale Snipers. Week two saw two of the closest scores of the young season, as the Mercenaries beat the Snipers 5–4, and SMV was defeated 2–0 in a good game against the formidable Sloppy Stick Handlers. This game saw league points leader Cyrus Zahiri score a goal and an assist to climb to eleven points, building on his nine from a week one Sloppy Stick Handlers win over the Nordiques 14–5.

The Nords won their week two game, 10–8 over the Untouchables, who fell to a very touchable 0–2. Other notable winners include the Magic Sticks, led by nine-point men Nick Mandic and Daniel Mazur. They won their first game 7–6 over the First Team All-Stars, and their second game 12–4 over the Hot Karl's.

The Hot Karl's and the Kommerce Killers each had a better time in week one, however, as they came to a 9–9 draw.

TOP 10 SCORERS -- DIVISION TWO

NAME	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS
Cyrus Zahiri	Sloppy Stick Handlers	2	6	5	11
Chris Jackson	Whalers	2	7	2	9
Nick Mandic	Magic Sticks	2	6	3	9
Daniel Mazur	Magic Sticks	2	5	4	9
Cory Johnson	Sawmill Valley	2	3	6	9
Glenn House	Sawmill Valley	2	7	1	8
Eric Cisarovsky	Magic Sticks	2	5	3	8
Mark Jomoszewski	Magic Sticks	2	3	5	8
Matt Capobianco	Whalers	2	3	4	7
Jon Brown	Whalers	2	1	6	6

This information is taken from game sheets supplied by the commissioners of each league. If names are incorrect, chances are they were illegible on game sheets. Write more legibly next time. Thanks—Commissioners & Sports Editor.

Is there a sport or a game that you'd like to have covered? Then write an article and submit it to Darryl via e-mail at **mediumsports@yahoo.ca**

High hopes for Lady Eagles Indoor Soccer

BY BRUNO PELLEGRINO

The Lady Eagles Division One indoor soccer season begins on Jan. 26 and there is a lot of excitement for the team that will represent UTM. This year's team has the talent and determination to bring the championship home.

The team is very strong in all positions. In goal, UTM has nothing to worry about as both Emily Saleh and Jesica Frutti have shown themselves to be very reliable. The defenders are going to provide the opposition with much difficulty to score. With their aggressive play and great instincts, Candice James, Julie Poirier, Joanne Karanjac, Carlie Van Gameren and Claire Pinsonnault will clamp down on the opposition.

In the last couple seasons, goal scoring has been a concern for the team. The great scouts from UTM appear to have solved that problem. First, Steph Kishimoto was plucked from the Tri-Campus basketball team, which she had dominated for many years. Sources say it was greed for money that persuaded her departure. Next the scouts looked overseas and came across a very shy and quite girl named Tanya Vuia. Sources say she did not want to leave her motherland but in the end decided it was best.

The team's next acquisition came from London, Ontario. Andrea Chan rejected offers from Western University to play for UTM. Finally, Steph Wagler has shown great vision on the field with excellent passing and she also possesses a terrific shot. This is probably one of the stronger teams UTM has produced in a while.

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SAC AGM

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 5th 2004 Rm 2080, South Bldg, UTM. 6pm

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance
3. Approval of Financial Statements
4. Report from Auditors
5. Motions:

a) Be It Resolved That SAC amend its Rules of Procedure as per the recommendations submitted by the Students' Administrative Council Board of Directors

(see www.sac.utoronto.ca for exact changes)

b) BIRT SAC amend its By-Laws as per the recommendations submitted by the Students' Administrative Council Board of Directors

(see www.sac.utoronto.ca for exact changes)

c) BIRT the by-laws of the Students' Administrative Council of the University of Toronto be replaced, in their entirety, by the "UnConstitution", as submitted by petition

(see www.sac.utoronto.ca for exact changes)

d) BIRT SAC take a position against the occupation of Iraq by the United States, Britain, and other 'coalition' forces, and BIFRT SAC endorse and commit resources such as room bookings, photocopies, et cetera to assist students at University of Toronto to mobilize for the March 20th International Day Against the Occupation of Iraq.

vi. Other Business

vii. Adjournment

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO students'administrative

WHAT IF I CAN'T MAKE THE MEETING?

You can proxy your vote. Proxy forms are available at all offices of the Students' Administrative Council. See www.sac.utoronto.ca for more information!

Exercise & dieting = success

By James Walker

A common misconception is that if you exercise you can still eat whatever you want. People often think that if you are on a special diet, you never have to exercise. The truth about diet and exercise is to approach both equally. A good exercise program works best in conjunction with a good diet, and vice versa. Additionally, healthy lifestyle habits like regular sleep patterns, not smoking, and moderation of alcohol consumption all play an important part in building a healthy lifestyle.

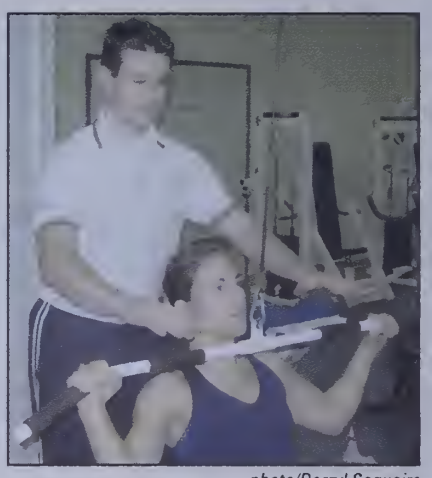
Someone approached me the other day and asked if altering their diet would help them reduce unhealthy body fat. The answer to this might seem obvious at first, but this individual had been following an exercise program for some time. The first thing I needed to explain was that most overweight individuals have unhealthy levels of body fat because of poor lifestyle choices. Lifestyle consists of more than just exercise. If they wanted to alter the effects of those choices, namely excessive body fat, they would have to choose to alter more than their exercise habits. This principal applies to everyone. Even though there are no immediate, visible ill-effects to your poor lifestyle choices, the consequences are long-term. There are individuals who have excellent physical fitness, but are still prone to health-related medical problems such as heart disease and diabetes. Although this is sometimes a hereditary disadvantage, it can also be the result of poor diet, drug use, and high stress. Exercise is great, but it has its place.

Diet does not mean that all you eat is salad and all you drink is water; rather, it is an objective way of describing your eating habits. Everyone is on a diet all the time. Some diets are better than others, and some are scientifically designed, while most others are not. A special diet generally means that some sort of regimen that tells you what, how much, and when to eat.

While this approach is successful for many, it fails for many more. What is needed is a more comprehensive approach to a healthy lifestyle. A good diet is important for everybody, whether you're overweight or not. Always remember that invisible problems such as high cholesterol can result from poor eating habits. Healthy food choices can often be made using common sense and a little bit of research, and activity will make everything taste better. Regular exercise habits make any diet far more effective, and will make the mental aspect of altering your lifestyle a little less overwhelming. The more things you change for the better, the more convinced you will be that you are doing the right thing, the more results you will see from your changes, and the easier additional changes will be to make.

Remember that neither exercise nor diet is a cure-all, however, a multimodal approach to improving your lifestyle in every aspect will yield results better than you ever imagined.

James Walker is a Personal Trainer for the UTM CPE. You can contact him at jwalker@utm.utoronto.ca.



photo/Darryl Sequeira

This exercise is called a "wide grip cable pulldown" or "lat pulldown". It works primarally the latissimus dorsi, a large muscle in your back. Grip the bar so that your hands are slightly wider than shoulder-width apart, lean back about 10 degrees, keep your stomach tight, and pull the bar towards your chest in a slow, controlled motion. Stop when your forearm and upper arm are at 90 degrees to each other, and then slowly return the bar back to your starting position. Complete 12 repetitions at 6 seconds per repetition, then rest for at least 30 seconds before doing another set or moving on to another exercise.

Still undefeated!

By Darryl Sequeira

photos courtesy of Rohit Sethi

After a long holiday break, the Eagles took to the court looking for a little competition after finishing the fall term with a perfect 5–0 record. They resumed play against the School of Graduate Students (SGS) on Jan. 21.

UTM got out to a furious lead dominating by a 20 point lead after only the six minute mark. UTM's Sacha Francisco (#15) led the way in the first half with 13 points and finished with a game-high 23 points including a highlight reel completion of an alley-hoop pass from Anand Patel.

The team had a well balanced attack with everyone contributing. Don Lee Pow scored 21 points while centre Bruno Pellegrino finished with 16 points and an alleged 14 rebounds! UTM won 113–51.

UTM will play again on Feb. 3 when they face a very tough OISE team (Teacher's College). In the meantime, Coach Rohit Sethi has gone on a recruiting mission to the finest division two colleges in Texas along with forward Anand Patel as they hope to lure away some of the South's finest cheerleaders to the Great White North.

University of Toronto at Mississauga

Centre for Physical Education, Athletics and Recreation

905-828-3714 www.utm.utoronto.ca/physed **email:** ath@utm.utoronto.ca

Women's Lacrosse Start Clinic

Monday, January 26
6:00 – 7:00p.m.
in the Gym

Come out and learn how to play lacrosse!

Beginners Welcome.

All equipment supplied!

Clinic taught by Varsity Blues Women's Coach ***Todd Pepper***

Women's Intramural Ball Hockey Clinic

All Players and Officials interested in playing
Women's Intramural Ball Hockey
this semester should attend!

Tuesday, January 27
8 – 9a.m. in the Gym

Bring your white plastic blade sticks!

Intramural Coed Basketball Entry Meeting

Monday, January 26
5:00 p.m.
in Room 1114

Team reps and free agents should attend!

Only 6 teams will be taken so don't miss the meeting!

Attention Ladies!!!

Please note that we now have "WOMEN'S ONLY HOURS" in the gym every Monday from 4 – 6p.m.